

CLAIMS

FIG. 1
FIG. 2

1. An absorbent article, such as a diaper, sanitary napkin, incontinence protector, wound dressing or the like, comprising an absorbent body (12) enclosed between a liquid-impermeable backing sheet (11) and a material laminate (1) in the form of a liquid permeable, fibrous sheet of material (2) forming a top sheet (2), and a liquid-permeable, porous and resilient sheet of material (3), forming a liquid transfer sheet (3) lying proximal to the absorbent body (12), wherein the laminate (1) has a planar extension and a thickness direction perpendicular to said planar extension, wherein at least one of the sheets (2, 3) includes thermoplastic material, and wherein the two sheets (2, 3) are joined together through the medium of bonding locations (4) on the laminate (1) within which the thermoplastic material is caused to at least partially soften or melt and thereby join together said two sheets (2, 3), **characterised** in that the absorbent body includes partially neutralised superabsorbent; and in that the sheet-joining regions of the laminate extend in the thickness direction of said laminate (1) through the top sheet (2) and at least partially through the liquid transfer sheet (3).

2. An absorbent article according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the laminate bonding regions are disposed in two or more groups (5) where each group includes at least two bonding locations (4), wherein the largest relative distance between two mutually adjacent bonding locations (4) in a given group (5) is smaller than the smallest distance between a group (5) and its nearest neighbouring group (5), wherein the laminate (1) includes between the bonding locations (4) in each bonding group (5) first non-bonded laminate regions

(6) that have a greater density than second non-bonded laminate regions (9) located between respective bonding groups (5).

5 3. An absorbent article according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterised** in that the superabsorbent has a degree of neutralisation such that the pH in the absorbent body of the article when wetted will lie in the range of 3.5-4.9, preferably 4.1-4.7.

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4. An absorbent article according to Claim 2 or 3, **characterised** in that the laminate bonding locations (4) include punctiform bonds, linear bonds, rectangular bonds or circular bonds.

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5. An absorbent article according to any one of the preceding Claims, **characterised** in that the top sheet (2) has through-penetrating holes within the bonding locations (4).

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6. An absorbent article according to any one of the preceding Claims, **characterised** in that the top sheet (2) is comprised of a nonwoven material.

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7. An absorbent article according to any one of the preceding Claims, **characterised** by carded, thermobonded nonwoven material.

8. An absorbent article according to any one of the preceding Claims, **characterised** in that the liquid transfer

sheet (3) is a fibre wadding sheet having a thickness of 0.5-4 mm.

9. An absorbent article according to any one of the preceding Claims, **characterised** in that the smallest distance x between two mutually adjacent groups (5) of bonding locations (4) is at least twice the size of the greatest distance y between two mutually adjacent bonding locations (4) in respective groups (5).

10. An absorbent article according to Claim 9, **characterised** in that the ratio of x/y between the distances x and y is from 2/1 to 12/1.

11. An absorbent article according to Claim 9 or 10, **characterised** in that x is 2-6 mm and y is 0.5-1 mm.